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P800 140-0530

October 21, 1979

E-362

Dear Mr. Green:

I am replying to your letter of August 28 enclosing correspondence from Wallenberg and Jan Kaplan.

The United States Government has been concerned over the fate of Raoul Wallenberg since the case first came to light at the end of World War II. We have taken every appropriate opportunity to ask Soviet authorities for a clarification in the Wallenberg case. When recent reports came to light which we hoped might indicate the possibility that Wallenberg might still be alive, we raised the matter with the Soviets on numerous occasions throughout 1979, but received no response. The Soviets finally answered, formally and in writing, in February of this year, stating that Wallenberg had died in July of 1947. They also informed the Swedish Government of this finding and they indicated that they would have no further information on Wallenberg in the future.

As you know, Jan Kaplan was the source of one report that Wallenberg might still be alive. We share your concern about his fate and continue to follow his situation closely. We deplore all violations of the rights of freedom of thought and expression, and freedom to emigrate and all the other basic human rights we hold dear. We have made our position on this clear to Soviet authorities on many occasions. Regrettably, the Soviets continue to regard the matter of Wallenberg as closed and the question of Jan Kaplan as a purely internal Soviet matter. Consequently, our ability to influence their conduct on these matters is extremely limited. Nonetheless, we will continue to make clear our concern over the fate of Raoul Wallenberg and the plight of all those who suffer for their attempts to exercise basic human rights.

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The Honorable
Bill Green,

House of Representatives

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You may be interested to know that our most recent efforts to confirm reports about Wallenberg through interviews with Soviet dissidents and emigres have again failed to produce any information to support the possibility that Wallenberg might still be alive.

Sincerely,

cut
J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned.

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